



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

www.littlelambsinc.org

Little Lambs Inc.

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, FL 33870 863-273-6075

MAY 2024

Given an assignment as part of his recovery therapy, Ahan has written from the heart about his new life.

WHY AM I HERE?

WHY AM I HERE? OR WHY AM I STILL HERE? I HATED THAT MAN/PERSON I WAS. I PUSHED AND RUINED EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY AROUND ME. I HAD NO COMMITMENT, NO CONFIDENCE AND NO FAITH IN MYSELF OR ANYTHING I DID. I HAD NO LOVE FOR LIFE OR ANYONE ELSE THAT I CLAIMED I LOVED.

MOTHER, FATHER, BROTHER, SISTERS, MY BABIES, MY NEICES AND NEPHEWS, OR MY FRIENDS. I DIDN'T HAVE LOVE FOR ANY OF THESE PEOPLE THAT I TOLD DAILY "I LOVE YOU." I HAVE SPOKEN SO MANY FALSE AND VOID WORDS TO MY FAMILY AND EX-WIFE THAT SOUNDED SO GOOD, SO SWEET AND TRUE. I WAS AN IMPULSIVE MANIPULATOR. A MAN WITH MANY IDENTITIES HIDING BEHIND THEM BECAUSE I LACKED THE CONFIDENCE THAT I HAVE NOW.

I WAS ONLY COMMITTED TO WORKING HARD TO GET THAT DRINK OR SUBSTANCE SUITABLE FOR THE OCCASION. MY COMMITMENT IS HERE. WHY AM I HERE? TO WORK ON WHO I AM NOW. TO WORK ON WHO I WANT TO BE. TO PRACTICE THINKING, SPEAKING ALL THINGS CLEAN. I AM SOBER, I AM DEALING WITH THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND OR AGREE WITH, I AM HERE!

I AM HERE TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED/PAIN (BROTHERS) OR AT LEAST DO THE BEST TO MY ABILITY TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE AS SERIOUS AS I AM ABOUT LIVING THEIR BEST LIFE WITH SOBRIETY. THE MORALS I HAVE NOW ACQUIRED TO WORK HARDER WITH A WILL I HAVE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE. I HAVE MORALS TO STAY HERE AND THINK OF THE REASONS WHY I AM HERE. MORALS TO THINK OF THE DISTURBING REASONS WHY I NEED TO BE HERE. MORALS TO THINK OF ALL THE POSITIVE REASONS THAT I NEED TO BE BETTER, BE ME, BE ALIVE, CLEAN AND SOBER. WITHOUT A DOUBT I MUST TRUST IN A WILL HIGHER THAN MY OWN, MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

WHY AM I HERE? I'M TIRED. I AM TIRED OF NOT KNOWING THAT THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS THAT I AM HERE AND I'M SOBER. MY FAMILY AND KIDS HAVE REASSURED ME ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST (MY SOBRIETY). WHAT MATTERS IS HERE AND NOW. THEY ARE PROUD OF ME THAT "I" MADE IT "MY" PRIORITY TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH MY LIFE.

WHY AM I HERE?

- TO CHANGE WHO I WAS
- TO CHANGE HOW I THINK
- TO GROW SPIRITUALLY
- TO CHANGE AND ACCOMPLISH ALL MY NEW SHORT AND LONG-TERM GOALS
- TO POINT OUT MY FAULTS AS WELL AS MY COMPANIONS
- TO ACCEPT WHO I AM AND MY LIMITATIONS (AS I AM) AND ALL THINGS THAT STRENGTHENS ME.

I AM HERE TO LEARN AND APPLY RIGHTEOUS MORALITY IN, AS WELL AS OUTSIDE, OF 2ND CHANCE MINISTRY. TO BE A GREATER FATHER, SON, BROTHER, UNCLE AND FRIEND.

WHY AM I HERE? NOT TO SACRIFICE WHO I AM BUT TO LIVE AND BE A CLEAN AND SOBER BETTER PERSON AS WELL AS THE MAN GOD INTENDED ME TO BE.

IN CLOSING EVERYDAY HAS BEEN MY GOD GIVEN 2ND CHANCE.

AHAN MULLINS



Marriage and Family Essay...In this class I learned a lot about my attitude, and dealing with my life and every day I will work to be a good person. I came from a dysfunctional family. My mother died when I was 8 years old. I lost everything I had, the love, caring protection, that a small child needs when he's 8 years old. Because I come to prison when my son was 8 years old, I know now how he feels. And I thank God he's still writing and comes to see me. As for my father, he really did not love me. He was abuser, controller, no affection, always abusing my mother. I used to see all this with my own eyes, so my vchild life was not that pleasant you could say. In this class, I'm learning how to be fair, loving, compassionate, caring, forgiving and understanding to others and talk it out. How to be a better husband and father. My last relationship was the same way. I carried on what I learned when I was growing up. My marriage was a disaster. Now I understand. I wan to ask my ex-spouse for forgiveness. I already did with my kids. I'm learning to be more responsible, loving, caring, honest a good husband to my next spouse and children and my community. JV.FL

Marriage & Family Essay by Henry

Hi, Mrs. Eileen. Henry here. I have learned so much from the class. I have a wife and 3 daughters. I thank God for you, especially coming here to a place where people are degraded and in some cases, dehumanized, to give us the knowledge, wisdom and breaking things down for us to understand where we should truly be in life spiritually. Our core beliefs can either stagnate us or allow us to grow, but you have to change and seek God and allow Him to lead you.

I've truly learned that the statistics are right about dysfunctional households and fatherless children. Without father or father figure a child has a disadvantage in life because they look to fill that void they're not getting at home and in the streets, anyone or anything can become that father to lead you to a road of destruction if led down the wrong street.

I've learned that "**NO**" is a powerful word. I've learned it's ok to say "**no**". It can save your life. Some people are afraid to tell a person no. I know. I was one of those people. I used to feel I'm hurting people's feelings if I told them NO even if I didn't want to give or do something for that person. It's as if I felt I was letting them down. But not anymore! I know when to say "**no**" now.

I've learned without having a solid spiritual foundation, relationships will always be rocky because there is no structure to it, especially no boundaries.

Ms. Eileen, I want to truly thank you for your time spent here. It was well worth it to me. I can't speak for anyone else but me. You broadened my mind with your teachings. This is my second time taking this course and I still can't believe how much of me I've seen through your class. I've changed in more ways than many for the better. I am a totally different father, husband, brother, friend, thanks to you. I thank God for you. If I never see or hear your name again, just know that your teaching will always be a constant reminder of you. God bless you can continue to bless so you may bless others with your gift. Henry

Dear Partners,

I have featured 2 letters from our class essays to remind myself why I am going to start prison classes again in June. It seems that part of the class will be the Faith-based Dorm. Regardless, I am very happy to see the men again and to help them understand biblical principles for daily living. Chaplain Pedro Heredia is the lead chaplain at Avon Park and we will be working with him. We would like to also have a Celebrate Recovery Class at the prison and I would like to interview anyone gifted to teach this recovery program. Please call me if you feel interested.

April 29, 2024, is a special day for us. Little Lambs Inc. is relinquishing control of our property at 543 Magnolia in Sebring, and selling it to the 2nd Chance Ministries and Aldo and Brenda Guzman. We have participated in the program these 3 years with classes and teachings. We have already had one baptism opportunity in the lake and we are now planning a second one. We have witnessed young men turning to God and blessing their families. We have seen graduates return for check-ins healthy and happy and productive in their jobs. We are so proud of them all.

It has been our privilege to be a part of their founding and growth. We hosted them at the property these three years and watched them grow and refine their program. There are several in the home who will eventually become licensed addiction counselors. We take great pleasure in hearing of the successes of our graduates. We do want to thank all of you for your prayers through the years for us and for these men in the program.

Your generosity has enabled us to help them get a footing and now they are ready to continue and grow.

It was in 2009 that we purchased this 1925 building for a recovery center. Ted Tinberg and Tom Engerman started the clean up and demolition. All the 5 bathrooms and the rest of the new plumbing was done by Whitetail Plumbing. Gerry Spierenberg and his wife came from Bradenton to do an excellent job re-wiring the whole house. Ray Gonzales did all the tile throughout the house. The Bulb Bin supplied all the lights and fans. Sherwin Williams gave us all the paint. Earl Hardy helped us design the interior and blueprints for the home. Beautiful landscaping was done by Robbins Nursery. All the painting was done by Greg Carr. And countless of you our partners donated the funds to furnish the home for it's new residents. Originally, the home was to house women, but after John died in 2013, the home has been used to host recovery programs. 2nd Chance Ministries came to us in 2021 and we have hosted them ever since. Very impressed with the results of this program, we are delighted to be a part of their vision of new life, just as the building was given new life serving the Lord. Your servant, Eileen Sala

